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U.S. Application 10/691,715
Amendment dated: March 12, 2008
Reply to Office Action of September 21, 2007

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (canceled):

Claim 10 (currently amended): The ~~system~~ computer-readable media of claim 16, wherein the scroll bar is oriented in one of an orthogonal, a parallel, an acute and an obtuse angle with respect to an axis of the viewing region.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The ~~system~~ computer-readable media of claim 16, wherein the computer-readable media is configured to receive the user identified ~~the~~ item of interest based on ~~by~~ highlighting of the item via at least one of a mouse, a keystroke and an audio stimulus.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The ~~system~~ computer-readable media of claim 16, wherein the computer-readable media is configured to ~~user removes~~ the graphical indicator from the scroll bar based on input ~~via one of~~ unhighlighting the item of interest ~~and deleting the graphical indicator.~~

Claim 13 (currently amended): ~~The~~ system ~~computer-readable media~~ of claim 16, wherein the computer-readable media is configured to ~~user returns to~~ the item of interest to the user ~~via one of~~ based on input moving the slider proximate to the graphical indicator ~~and~~ invoking the graphical indicator.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The ~~system~~ computer-readable media of claim 16, wherein the computer-readable media is configured to receive input invoking the graphical indicator ~~is invoked~~ via one or more of a mouse, a keystroke and an audio stimulus.

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~the~~ The system ~~computer-readable media~~ of claim 13, wherein the computer-readable media is configured to invoking the graphical indicator automatically returns the item of interest within the viewing region based on input invoking the graphical indicator.

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Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~A system~~ One or more computer-readable media comprising:

stored computer executable instructions that, when executed by a data processing device, provide a graphical user interface comprising:

a viewing region that provides ~~the~~ a first user a window to observe at least a portion of information from a set of information;

a scroll bar that maps to the set of information;

a slider associated with the scroll bar that is moved relative to the scroll bar to determine at least a portion of information that is displayed within the viewing region; ~~and~~

a location component that obtains a location of a user-identified item of interest, generates a graphical indicator for the item of interest and maps the graphical indicator to the scroll bar to provide the user with a visible indication of the location of the item of interest within the set of information; ~~and~~

a storage component, residing in connection with the locating component in a shared environment, that stores the location of the item of interest identified by the first user;

wherein the computer-readable media system is configured ~~for~~ to allow a second user access to the storage component to change the location of the item of interest ~~by moving the graphical indicator.~~

Claim 17 (currently amended): The ~~system~~ computer-readable media of claim 16, wherein the location component is further employed to generate and associate graphical indicators for one or more additional user-identified items of interest.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The ~~system~~ computer-readable media of claim 16, wherein the graphical indicator is visible within the slider when the item of interest is visible within the viewing window.

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Claim 19 (currently amended): The ~~system~~ computer-readable media of claim 16, wherein the graphical indicator dynamically changes in size in response to a change in size in the set of information in order to maintain a relative indication of the percentage of information represented by the graphical indicator relative to the set of information.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The ~~system~~ computer-readable media of claim 16, further comprising one or more additional scroll bars that are employed in connection with one or more additional sliders to provide for multi-dimensional tracking of the item of interest.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The ~~system~~ computer-readable media of claim 16 further comprising an intelligence component that facilitates adding and removing the graphical indicator and returning the item of interest to the viewing region.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The ~~system~~ computer-readable media of claim 21, wherein the intelligence component comprises ~~ing~~ at least one of a statistic, a probability, an inference and a classifier.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A method comprising:

receiving an input associated with a user-identified point of focus within a list from a first user of a plurality of users in a shared environment;

obtaining a location of the user-identified point of focus within the list;

storing the location of the user-identified point of focus;

adding a first graphical indicator to the scroll bar, the first graphical indicator provides a relative location of the user-identified point of focus within the list; and

changing the location of the point of focus based on user input from a second user of the plurality of users in the shared environment ~~moving the graphical indicator on the scroll bar.~~

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Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of claim 23, further comprising adding a second graphical indicator to the scroll bar, the second graphical indicator is associated with a second user-identified point of focus within the list; and

changing the location of the second point of focus based on user input moving the second graphical indicator on the scroll bar.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 24, wherein the second graphical indicator is differentiated from the first graphical indicator by at least one of color, size, shape, and position.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The method of claim 23, further comprising providing information indicative of the point of focus based on positioning a pointer positioned proximate to the graphical indicia to obtain information indicative of the point of focus.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A method comprising:

~~selecting~~ receiving a graphical indicator on a scroll bar, said graphical indicator associated with a point of focus;

obtaining a position of the point of focus from the graphical indicator;

utilizing the position to locate the point of focus within data;

changing the location of the point of focus based on user input from a first user moving the graphical indicator on the scroll bar; and

changing the location of the point of focus based on user input from a second user moving the graphical indicator on the scroll bar.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The method of claim 27, further comprising providing information indicative of the point of focus based on positioning a pointer positioned over the graphical indicator to obtain information indicative of the point of focus in order to facilitate selecting the desired graphical indicator from a plurality of graphical indicators.

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Claim 29 (currently amended): The method of claim 27, further comprising ~~invoking the graphical indicator to automatically~~ returning the point of focus to the first or second user based on the first or second user invoking the graphical indicator.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The method of claim 27, further comprising ~~manually navigating a slider proximate to the graphical indicator to returning~~ the point of focus to the first or second user based on the first or second user manually navigating a slider proximate to the graphical indicator.

Claim 31 (currently amended): ~~An system apparatus comprising:~~
means for identifying foci;
means for generating graphical indicia associated with the foci;
means for associating the graphical indicia with a positioning mechanism; ~~and~~
means for employing the positioning mechanism in connection with the graphical indicia to view the foci; and
means for moving the graphical indicia to change the location of the associated foci based on user input from a first user in a shared environment, and to change the location of the associated foci based on input from a second user in the shared environment.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The ~~system-computer-readable media~~ of claim 20, further comprising associating an additional graphical indicator corresponding to one of the additional one or more scroll bars with the graphical indicator corresponding to the item of interest.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The ~~system-computer-readable media~~ of claim 32, wherein the graphical user interface, upon receiving ~~user-input~~ selecting any graphical indicator corresponding to the item of interest, automatically moves all sliders proximately to a location on each corresponding scroll bar of the item of interest.

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Claim 34 (new): The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the means for identifying the foci is at least one of a mouse, a keystroke, or an audio stimulus.

Claim 35 (new): The apparatus of claim 31 further comprising means for removing the graphical indicia.

Claim 36 (new): One or more computer-readable media storing computer executable instructions, that when executed by a processor, perform a method comprising:

- receiving an input associated with a user-identified point of focus within a list from a first user of a plurality of users in a shared environment;
- obtaining a location of the user-identified point of focus within the list;
- storing the location of the user-identified point of focus;
- adding a first graphical indicator to the scroll bar, the first graphical indicator provides a relative location of the user-identified point of focus within the list; and
- changing the location of the point of focus based on input from a second user of the plurality of users in the shared environment.

Claim 37 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 36, wherein said method further comprises:

- adding a second graphical indicator to the scroll bar, the second graphical indicator associated with a second user-identified point of focus within the list; and
- changing the location of the second point of focus based on user input moving the second graphical indicator on the scroll bar.

Claim 38 (new): The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the second graphical indicator is differentiated from the first graphical indicator by at least one of color, size, shape, and position.

Claim 39 (new): The computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising providing information indicative of the point of focus based on a pointer positioned proximate to the graphical indicator.